

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /073 W
-----241126Z 118929 /15

O R 241058Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6500
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 5871

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:
SUBJ: SECURITY COUNCIL--LESOTHO'S COMPLAINT AGAINST
SOUTH AFRICA

REF: USUN 6337, 6330, 6334

1. IN ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS IN NATAL FOR MEET-
ING WITH BUTHELEZI, MFA DEPUTY SECRETARY J. S. F. BOTHA
CALLED IN DCM DEC. 23 TO EXPRESS "DEEP SAG CONCERN" OVER
ALLEGATIONS MADE IN SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNING SOUTH
AFRICAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLOSURE OF TRANSKEI BORDER WITH
LESOTHO IN ATTEMPT TO FORCE LATTER TO RECOGNIZE TRANSKEI.
PRIME MINISTER HAD ASKED HIM TO CALL IN "THE AMBASSADORS"
TO STRESS PARTICULARLY HIS "EVEN DEEPER CONCERN" THAT THE
ALLEGATIONS AND ASSOCIATED CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA HAD
APPARENTLY BEEN ACCEPTED.

2. BOTHA SAID ADMINISTRATION OF TRANSKEI BORDER POSTS IS
NO LONGER A SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSIBILITY. IN ANY EVENT,
ACCORDING TO SAG INFORMATION, BORDER IN FACT REMAINS
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OPEN AND TRAFFIC IS FLOWING "NORMALLY." (BOTHA
ACKNOWLEDGED SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON "NORMAL" TRAFFIC
WAS SA PRESSMEN WHO HAD GONE TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION,
HE AGREED THEY MIGHT NOT KNOW WHAT CONSTITUTES NORMAL
TRAFFIC.) LOCAL POPULATIONS ARE PERHAPS EXPERIENCING
SOME INCONVENIENCES, HE SAID, BUT PEOPLE AND GOODS ARE

MOVING BOTH WAYS ACROSS THE FRONTIER. BOTHA ADDED, IF THERE WERE A TRANSKEI BORDER CLOSURE THE ECONOMIC IMPACT WOULD BE MINIMAL EXCEPT FOR LOCAL POPULATION, SINCE BULK OF LESOTHO'S TRAFFIC CROSSES BORDER WITH SOUTH AFRICA. FOLLOWING SAME LINE AMBASSADOR PIK BOTHA USED IN NEW YORK (USUN 6334), HE CONCLUDED THAT LESOTHO, A POOR COUNTRY IN NEED OF MUCH ASSISTANCE, HAD MADE ADROIT USE OF THE PRESENT "GENERAL VENDETTA" AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA TO GAIN FURTHER ECONOMIC AID.

3. IN POSSESSION OF AMBASSADOR SHERER'S STATEMENT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEC. 23, BOTHA WAS AWARE OF THE US POSITION ON THE ISSUE.
BOWDLER

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